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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/605,946	11/07/2003	Dan T. MUELLER	10286.0350.NPUS01	2945
23369	7590	01/12/2006	EXAMINER	
HOWREY LLP C/O IP DOCKETING DEPARTMENT 2941 FAIRVIEW PARK DRIVE, SUITE 200 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042-7195			FULLER, BRYAN A	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				3676

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/605,946	MUELLER, DAN T.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Bryan A. Fuller	3676	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### **Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 November 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### **Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-19 and 31-40 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 21-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### **Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### **Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### **Attachment(s)**

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the applicant's amendment filed 8/10/2005. Claims 21 – 30 have been finally rejected.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 21, 23 – 26, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Onan et al (5,696,059).

With respect to claim 21: Onan et al teaches in column 2, line 21 – column 4, line 21 a method of cementing an oil or gas well, the method comprising; providing a cement composition comprising water, cement, and low reactivity particles, wherein the particles have a size of about 40 mesh to about 250 mesh; pumping the composition into the well; and allowing the composition to set. The reference inherently possesses the feature of fracturing in a non-linear manner when set.

With respect to claim 23: Onan et al teaches in column 4, lines 12 – 21 a method wherein the water is present at a concentration of about 30 weight percent to about 150 weight percent, based on the weight of the cement.

With respect to claim 24: Onan et al teaches in column 3, lines 37 - 49 a method wherein the cement is API Class A cement, API Class B cement, API Class C cement, API Class G cement, or API Class H cement.

With respect to claim 25: Onan et al teaches in column 3, lines 29 - 36 a method wherein the cement, ASTM cement is ASTM class 11 cement, ASTM class 111 cement, ASTM class IV cement, or ASTM class V cement.

With respect to claim 26 and 29: Onan et al teaches in column 4, lines 1 - 11 a method wherein the particles are silica sand.

3. Claims 21, 24, 26, 28 – 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Powell (4,090,561).

With respect to claim 21: Powell teaches in column 1, line 26 – column 3, line 43 a method of cementing an oil or gas well, the method comprising; providing a cement composition comprising water, cement, and low reactivity particles, wherein the particles have a size of about 40 mesh to about 250 mesh; pumping the composition into the well; and allowing the composition to set. The reference inherently possesses the feature of fracturing in a non-linear manner when set.

With respect to claim 24: Powell teaches in column 2, lines 32 - 34 a method wherein the cement is API Class A cement, API Class B cement, API Class C cement, API Class G cement, or API Class H cement.

With respect to claims 26 and 29: Powell teaches in column 3, lines 28 - 43 a method wherein the particles are silica sand and sand.

With respect to claim 28: Powell teaches in column 3, lines 28 - 43 a method wherein the particles are present at a concentration of about 30 weight percent to about 100 weight percent, based on the weight of the cement.

With respect to claim 30: Powell teaches in column 3, lines 28 - 43 a method wherein the composition further comprises gravel.

4. Claims 21 and 27 – 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Eilers (4,556,109).

With respect to claim 21: Eilers teaches in column 2, line 44 – column 3, line 15 a method of cementing an oil or gas well, the method comprising; providing a cement composition comprising water, cement, and low reactivity particles, wherein the particles have a size of about 40 mesh to about 250 mesh; pumping the composition into the well; and allowing the composition to set. The reference inherently possesses the feature of fracturing in a non-linear manner when set.

With respect to claim 27: Eilers teaches in column 3, lines 7 - 15 a method wherein the particles are aluminum silicate, gilsonite, ground coal, adamantane, or fullerene.

With respect to claim 28: Eilers teaches in column 3, lines 44 - 51 a method wherein the particles are present at a concentration of about 30 weight percent to about 100 weight percent, based on the weight of the cement.

***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21 - 30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bryan A. Fuller whose telephone number is (571) 272-8119. The examiner can normally be reached on M - Th 7:30 - 5:00 and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian E. Glessner can be reached on (571) 272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Brian E. Glessner  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3676

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